

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of determining the risk for calcification of arteries and other soft tissues in a mammal, said method comprising:

detecting the level of a fetuin-mineral complex in blood from said mammal, wherein an increased level of the fetuin mineral complex as compared to that found in a control indicates that said mammal is at increased risk for calcification of arteries and other soft tissues.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said arteries and other soft tissues is arteries.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said mammal is a non-human mammal.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said mammal is a human.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said control is a blood sample from the same species of mammal where said same species of mammal is a normal healthy mammal.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises detecting the amount of fetuin ~~comprising in~~ in a sample of ~~a~~ the fetuin mineral complex.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises detecting the amount of matrix Gla protein ~~comprising in~~ in a sample of ~~a~~ the fetuin mineral complex.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises detecting the amount of secreted phosphoprotein 24 ~~comprising in~~ in a sample of ~~a~~ the fetuin mineral complex.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises detecting the amount of platelet factor 4 ~~comprising in~~ in a sample of ~~a~~ the fetuin mineral complex.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises detecting the amount of calcium ~~comprising in~~ in a sample of ~~a~~ the fetuin mineral complex.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises detecting the amount of phosphate ~~comprising~~ in a sample of a the fetuin mineral complex.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises detecting the amount of a mineral phase ~~comprising~~ in a sample of a the fetuin mineral complex.

Claims 13-75 (Canceled).